

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 18077

EXDIS

11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, TU, GW
SUBJECT: US-TURKISH DISCUSSIONS RE CYPRUS

REFS: (A) STATE 252232; (B) PARIS 31439

1. DUE TO SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES INVOLVING BLECH, WE MADE CYPRUS PRESENTATION (REF A) TO FOREIGN OFFICE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MEDITERRANEAN AFFAIRS BENSCH ON OCTOBER 28. BENSCH EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR PRESENTATION AND UNDERTOOK TO TRANSMIT IT TO BLECH AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS. IN ADDITION, HE MADE THE COMMENTS OUTLINED HEREIN.

2. BENSCH SAID THE TURKS HAD ALSO TOLD THE FRG THEY DID NOT DESIRE ACTION BY OTHER PARTIES AT THIS TIME. THE FRG WAS RESPECTING THIS VIEW AND IN ANY CASE BELIEVED NOTHING COULD BE DONE UNTIL AFTER THE
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FEBRUARY ELECTIONS IN CYPRUS. BENSCH STRESSED THAT THE FRG WOULD REMAIN ON THE SIDELINES AND ALLOW THE US TO CONTINUE TO TAKE THE LEAD. THE FRG WOULD CONFINE ITSELF TO OBSERVING THE SITUATION AND OFFERING ADVICE FROM TIME TO TIME WHEN IT FELT THIS WAS NECESSARY TO HELP ACHIEVE SOME MOVEMENT.

3. IN THIS CONTEXT, BENSCH OFFERED THE FOLLOWING AS CURRENT FOREIGN OFFICE THINKING ON THE TURKISH POSITION: THE TURKS HAD TOLD THE FRG THAT THEY COULD NOT UNDERTAKE ANY STEPS RE CYPRUS SO LONG AS THE US WEAPONS EMBARGO CONTINUED IN EFFECT. WHILE THE FOREIGN OFFICE DID NOT BELIEVE THIS WAS THE DEFINITIVE TURKISH POSITION, IT DID SEE A NEED FOR THE US TO GIVE "SOME ASSURANCES" THAT THE EMBARGO WOULD BE DROPPED IF ANKARA TOOK SOME POSITIVE STEPS. IN ADDITION, IF, AS THE TURKS HAD CLAIMED, THE US HAD CREATED A LINK BETWEEN THE DCA AND CYPRUS, THEN WASHINGTON MUST ALSO MAKE EXPLICITLY CLEAR THAT SUCH LINKAGE INVOLVED ONLY CYPRUS AND NOT THE AEGEAN OR ANYTHING ELSE. THE FOREIGN OFFICE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE DEPARTMENT COULD NOT GIVE GUARANTEES REGARDING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON A TURKISH DCA. NONETHELESS, WASHINGTON SHOULD AT A MINIMUM SUPPORT THE TURKISH POSITION THAT GREECE ALSO PARTICIPATE IN RESUMED CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS. BENSCH BELIEVED ANKARA ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO GREEK PARTICIPATION IN SUCH NEGOTIATIONS.

4. BENSCH SAID, WITH SOME IRRITATION, THAT THE FRG HAD FIRST LEARNED THE DETAILS OF THE "OWEN PLAN" DURING POLITICAL DIRECTOR LEVEL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FRENCH ON OCTOBER 17. LABOULAYE HAD TOLD THE GERMANS THAT THE PLAN ENVISAGED AN INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS BY THE FIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, IN THE EVENT THAT PRESENT US EFFORTS DID NOT PRODUCE A POSITIVE RESULT. LABOULAYE SAID THE PROPOSAL WAS INITIALLY A FRENCH IDEA WHICH OWEN HAD, AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE, TAKEN UP WITH WASHINGTON. BENSCH SAID THE FOREIGN OFFICE DID NOT "THINK MUCH OF THE IDEA", BUT WOULD WELCOME CLOSE CONSULTATIONS IF WE DESIRED TO PURSUE IT AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE. THE FOREIGN OFFICE BELIEVED THE TURKS WOULD BE VERY MISTRUSTFUL OF ANYTHING SMACKING OF SECURITY COUNCIL (SC) ACTION, ON CYPRUS. WHILE HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PLAN INVOLVED ONLY THE WESTERN MEMBERSHIP OF THE SC AND NOT SC ACTION PER SE, HE BELIEVED THIS CONFIGURATION WAS TOO CLOSE TO THE SOVIET SUGGESTION OF ACTION BY THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SC TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE TURKS. BENSCH ADDED THAT THE FRG HAD NOT EXPRESSED THIS VIEW TO THE FRENCH. STOESSEL

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